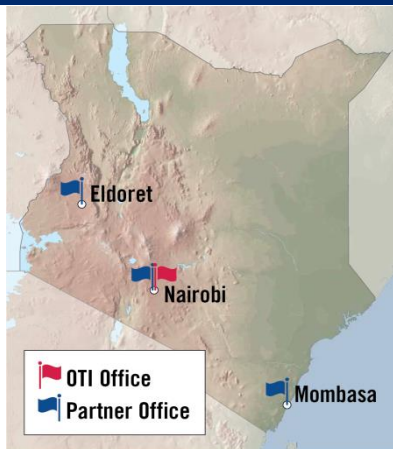




Office of Transition Initiatives

KENYA



OTI MISSION STATEMENT

To support U.S foreign policy objectives by helping local partners advance peace and democracy in priority countries in crisis. Seizing critical windows of opportunity, OTI works on the ground to provide fast, flexible, short-term assistance targeted at key political transition and stabilization needs.

FAST FACTS

Start Date: January 2011
Total Budget: \$34.39 million
TI: \$14.17 million
EAS: \$4.69 million
CCF-Coast: \$3.93 million
XENO: \$2.93 million
DFID: \$2.03 million
Devolution \$1.90 million
CVE-Coast: \$1.75 million
PREACT: \$1.62 million
Youth: \$1.44 million
DRG: \$500,000
1207: \$325,000
PER: \$250,000
HRG: \$200,000
ES-SUP: \$148,719

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) launched the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program in June 2008 after Kenya's competing political parties adopted a peace accord and power-sharing agreement that quelled the devastating inter-ethnic violence that followed the hotly contested December 2007 national elections. The goal of the program is primarily hinged on contributing to a stable Kenyan polity that mobilizes citizen participation around a national identity and political platforms rather than ethnic identities. From its beginning, KTI's engagement in Kenya has supported national and local-level stabilization and transition efforts targeted at recovery by mitigating political and social volatility and reducing vulnerability to violence. KTI's multi-pronged efforts contribute to institutional and grassroots reforms and assist Kenyan state and non-state actors in support of the following broad objectives:

- Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty;
- Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform;
- Mitigate instability due to the war in Somalia.

In March 2013, Kenya carried out its first General Election under the 2010 Constitution. The elections brought into effect a new devolved system of governance which transferred power from the central government to the newly created county governments. As a response to the newly devolved structure, and per the request of USAID/Kenya, KTI refocused its programming towards strengthening public institutions at the county level in order to advance a governmental structure that is more inclusive, transparent, and accountable.

In September 2013, USAID/Kenya and the Department for International Development (DFID) entered into a partnership agreement for the Bridge Devolution Program. DFID provided \$ 2.03 million to KTI to carry out devolution-related activities.

KTI was initially implemented by Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) under a task order that closed in May 2011. Chemonics International began implementing KTI activities under a separate task order in January 2011 and will continue through April 2014. This report covers activities and events between October 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

PROGRAM AREAS

Public Institution Strengthening: Since independence, Kenya has experienced episodes of political instability that have had adverse effects on the country's economic performance and social cohesion. Many Kenyans believe that previous regimes did not aim to curb corruption, economic stagnation, regional inequalities, or abject poverty in marginalized areas of the country. With the enactment and implementation of devolution, the constitutionally-mandated new governance structure transferring much power to new local authorities, many Kenyans are uncertain that a new system will lead to improved results and equity.

With devolution in Kenya championed as a strategy to improve governance and remedy institutional deficiencies, the debate on the nature of mechanisms designed to achieve these results has become a highly controversial topic among Kenyan citizens. To restore public confidence, there is a need to ensure that devolution is effective and is not impeded by weak institutional capacities in the sub-national entities, or by the lack of awareness in the electorate to demand accountability from local institutions.

To support transparency and accountability at the county level, and to increase public confidence in the newly devolved system, KTI cleared 26 activities for more than \$1.5 million to strengthen public institutions during this reporting period. This includes partnerships with five counties, including Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kakamega, Kilifi, and Isiolo, focused on enhancing their respective records management systems. These partnerships were created as the new county governments inherited tens of thousands of land and human resource files, despite the fact that they were ill-equipped to handle this volume effectively and lacked the capacity to develop efficient records management systems. To ensure accurate and effective reconciliation and documentation of crucial records in the county governments, KTI has helped these five counties upgrade and improve their registries by rolling out an efficient and effective records management system. This includes KTI support in hiring data clerks tasked with working with registry staff to organize and classify files according to departments, appraising the documents, and ensuring that file contents match what is indicated. With the assistance of the data clerks, each registry will digitize more than 10,000 files.

During the reporting period, KTI also supported the establishment of a Research Unit in Bomet and Vihiga Counties that will enhance the ability of the County Assembly, the Executive, and the public to propose draft legislation and policy. The support intends to improve the quality of County Assembly debates in order to improve legislation and balance policy decisions in the County Government. In addition, KTI helped train research staff and provided them an opportunity to learn from the National Assembly Research Department directly.

KTI also sought to increase the capacity of the counties of Trans Nzoia, Kisumu, Lamu, Laikipia, and Meru to design county plans, seek public input, and publish and disseminate the plans to a wide audience. Each of these counties received technical assistance for a variety of sector plans that helped form their respective County Integrated Development Plans. Public outreach was a core component of these activities and KTI assisted the counties with facilitation assistance so they could hold a large number of community forums to receive feedback on these plans.

Youth Engagement: Although the youth represent approximately 60% of the Kenyan population, a majority lack the opportunities to engage in gainful employment or seek alternative education as a means of empowering themselves. Youth also lack safe spaces where they can express themselves freely without fear or intimidation. In Likoni Constituency in Mombasa County, sporadic political violence has affected the region since the return of multi-party politics in 1992. In addition, the unresolved movement for secession by the Mombasa Republic Council (MRC) continues to pose a real threat to the inhabitants. As expounded upon in the KTI-funded *Revalidation Report of the 2010 Mombasa Youth Assessment and Design (CHXMSA074)*, there is an identified need for adequate common spaces and centers for youth to positively engage and organize social, cultural, and recreational activities of interest, which will, in turn, buffer them against extremist ideology.

In an effort to provide a space for youth to engage in structured activities, KTI supported [REDACTED] a key youth center in the area, by providing material and operational capacity support. With KTI support, [REDACTED] has been able to refurbish its meeting hall and

improve its outreach and hosting capacity. In addition, KTI has also helped [REDACTED] to create a multi-purpose sports area for the youth in the region, providing them space for recreational activities. KTI has also helped to train [REDACTED] staff on the dangers of radicalization and how to empower the youth to reject extremism. The staff has also carried out sensitization activities in the local community on how to recognize the early warning signs of radicalization in individuals. By working with [REDACTED], KTI is helping the center become a recognized community asset that will play a key role in rehabilitating youth who have been radicalized and ensure that those who are vulnerable to extremist ideology are identified and sensitized on the disadvantages of radicalization.

With extremist and militia groups radicalizing youths in local communities, it has become necessary to calm or quell tensions amongst the youth and identify avenues for them to vent out their frustrations. In an effort to promote self-identity among the youth and to minimize their susceptibility to extremist ideologies, KTI supported [REDACTED] to utilize performance arts in Kilifi and Mombasa counties to convey messages of tolerance and serve as a form of self-expression for youths to diffuse the present radical environment. Through skits, poems, outreach programs, and an art exhibition, Kwacha Afrika is reaching out to the youth in a manner that they can relate to and relaying the importance of self-identity.

COUNTRY SITUATION

ICC Trials – The International Criminal Court (ICC) has called for a delay to the start of President Uhuru's trial, stating that there is no longer sufficient evidence to charge the President with crimes against humanity. The case has suffered major setbacks in this reporting period with key witnesses refusing to testify and others confessing to having given false evidence on critical events on the case. "Having carefully considered my evidence and the impact of the two withdrawals, I have come to the conclusion that currently the case against Mr. Kenyatta does not satisfy the high evidentiary standards required at trial," Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor for the ICC, said in a statement.¹ President Kenyatta, together with his Deputy, William Ruto, is on trial for crimes against humanity perpetrated during the 2008 election. The African Union and the Kenyan government have unsuccessfully sought for deferral of the case against Mr. Kenyatta at the United Nations Security Council.

By-elections – In Bugoma County, one of the three co-principal leaders of the Coalition of Reform and Democracy (CORD), Moses Wetangula, lost his March 2013 assembly seat victory after a court ruled that there were irregularities in the election process. During the by-election, Mr. Wetangula recaptured his Senate seat after a hotly contested battle between the rival political coalitions, Jubilee and CORD.

New Media Law – The National Assembly passed what has been perceived by many Kenyans as a draconian media bill that was ratified by the President. The Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) Bill of 2013 sets up a quasi-governmental body with the power to impose fines on media houses and media personalities and is seen by most media houses as an attempt to censor the media by intimidation. The new bill contains provisions that allow the body to fine media groups up to \$230,000 and individual journalists up to \$6,000 if they breach a code of conduct. Media owners, editors, journalists, religious organizations, trade unions, and civil society have condemned the bill stating that it is reversing the gains that have been made towards media freedom over the last decade. The Senate interrupted their sessions to discuss the legality of the President enacting the bill into law. Media owners and editors have argued that the bill offends the constitution by creating an authority that exercises control over content.

Terrorist Attacks – Since the incursion of Kenyan troops into Somalia in October 2011, Kenya has been under a heightened sense of alert. With the terrorist attack at Westgate Mall last quarter that saw more than 200 injured and 67 dead, security concerns have only deepened. Since the Westgate attack, there have been sporadic attacks by terrorists using improvised explosive devices that have killed many people. These incidences have been centered on the Northeastern region of the country, the Eastleigh suburb of Nairobi, and along the Coast.

¹ The link of the statement : http://www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/press%20and%20media/press%20releases/Pages/otp-statement-19-12-2013.aspx

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2014 – All grant activities will be completed for the Mombasa, Eastleigh, and Eldoret offices.

February 2014 – KTI closes its offices in Mombasa, Eldoret, and Eastleigh. KTI holds its last staff evaluation meeting with OTI representatives.

March 2014 – All remaining KTI activities end.

April 2014 – KTI program closes.

GRANTS SUMMARY

KTI has funded a total of 516 activities through December 31, 2013 totaling \$19,375,521. During this reporting period from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, KTI has funded a total of 48 activities, including cleared, completed, and closed grants, short-term technical assistance (STTA), and direct distribution of goods and services (DDGS), totaling \$2,722,232. The breakdown by sector for cleared grants is as follows:

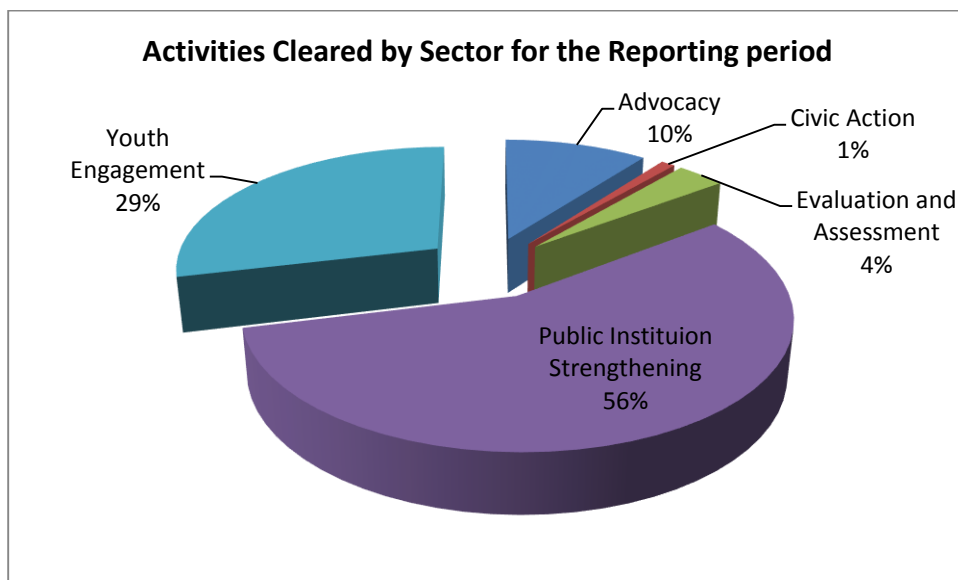


Figure 1: The percentages represented in the above diagram are indicative of amounts committed during this reporting period

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Support to the Kericho County Assembly Research Unit: With the devolved system of governance in effect, County Assemblies are mandated to exercise their legislative authority. Despite the devolution of power, the majority of the Members of the County Assembly (MCA) lack prior experience as legislators. MCAs need to have access to timely, up-to-date, and accurate information and analysis to enable them to contribute effectively to the debate processes in the House, and make informed decisions that will affect their electorate. To ensure that the MCAs in Kericho have access to important information, KTI helped to support Kericho County establish a research unit that is playing a significant role in facilitating legislative research and exchange of information between MCAs. KTI also helped to train Kericho County MCAs on utilizing the research unit to obtain relevant information and analysis that will help improve the quality of motions debated at the County Assembly. KTI equipped MCAs with basic skills in accessing internet research from online publications and databases, deepening their understanding on the role and function of the legislature. With KTI's support, Kericho County was able to open the research center, which will be instrumental in ensuring that MCAs and other stakeholders are able to access accurate information on government functions and procedures. KTI also helped to support an information center within the research unit with internet-ready desktop computers and furniture, while providing the library with shelving and support for the reproduction of relevant published materials. By supporting the research unit, KTI is enhancing the capacity of Kericho's County Assembly members to govern and legislate effectively, resulting in well informed policies that will empower the citizens.



District Land register for Thika looks through the land files that have been kept in the KTI provided Kalamazoo binders

The County Banking Fair: The rising unemployment rate in the country has caused both governmental and non-governmental institutions to work on programs that promote entrepreneurship among the youth as a means to create new jobs. With the employment rate in Kenya at 40 percent, there is a pressing need for youth to create other avenues for economic empowerment so as to avoid recruitment efforts by extremist groups or engagement in illegal activities.

KTI partnered with [REDACTED] to promote financial empowerment among youth in the formal and informal sectors of Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, and Lamu counties through a two-day county banking fair in each of the counties. The fairs included exhibitions

by various institutions from the financial and banking services sector. The fairs also engaged institutions that worked with youths to showcase their products and services as an alternative avenue for income generation. During the banking fairs, [REDACTED] was able to hold discussions with youth on tolerance and how they could empower themselves to ensure that they are not susceptible to extremist ideology and do not engage in illegal activities. By creating a link to financial institutions, these youth learned vital information regarding how to sustain their business ventures through accessing services and products from credible financial institutions. With the creation of an avenue for youth to seek services and mentorship from different stakeholders, the resolve to shun illegal groups and to focus on positive forms of uplifting their economic status has deepened.

Improving Service Delivery in Land Registries – The Ministry of Lands in Kenya is yet to fully digitize its records system; the majority of land registries use paper records for storing and accessing the information needed to make transactions and inquiries on land. As a result, a majority of the registries have records that are overflowing due to the lack of adequate storage space that can hold large volumes of land paper records. This has hindered the effectiveness of the registries as a majority of staff must dedicate a large amount of time to file organization and retrieval. With registries such as Kajiado handling over 100,000 files, it is almost impossible to serve the public according to the mandated service charter. To help address these filing inefficiencies, KTI partnered with land registries in Kajiado, Kilifi, and Thika County to improve service delivery. This was done through operational support to the registries, where KTI provided additional storage space for land paper files through the provision of Kalamazoo binders that hold more than five hundred documents each. In Kilifi, KTI helped to provide refurbished containers that are being used as additional storage space in the registry. In Thika, KTI also has helped to refurbish its registry, ensuring that more space is created. With the files and records organized, the time spent in file retrieval by registry staff has been significantly reduced. KTI also helped provide the registries with heavy duty photocopiers, signage for various offices, as well as filing cabinets. By improving the interface between users and the registry officials through the provision of proper archiving and filing systems, KTI is helping the registries to improve their service delivery and fulfilling their mandated charter. For more information on the 2008-2013 KTI support to Land Registries, visit www.kenyati.info.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

This reporting period has had significant changes both operationally and programmatically. KTI's Deputy Chief of Party transitioned to a similar role on another project while several team members were promoted to senior roles in their respective offices. Programmatically, the program team has been working to develop the last set of grant activities that will be implemented before the project closes. This has led to a scaling up in the number of devolution and youth engagement activities as teams work with County Governments to assist them in laying out the ground work for devolution while building the confidence of the public in the new governance system.

In the coming quarter, KTI will begin the close of the project in earnest. Three of KTI's four offices will close and all activities will be completed and subsequently closed. KTI will coordinate with USAID's two new projects, AHADI and the CHF-implemented Countering Violent Extremism program, to ensure that its lessons learned are passed on.

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Visit the OTI Website at www.usaid.gov, Keyword "OTI" or visit www.kenyati.info for more information